

Behavioral Indicators (Continued)

It is estimated 26.5% of Tennesseans smoke cigarettes: 28% male and 25.1% female. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States for both men and women. In the publication "Tennessee's Healthy People 2000," Houston County averaged 5 lung cancer deaths between 1993-1995. This amounted to a 43.7 rate per 100,000 population and a ranking of 69th in the State for deaths from lung cancer. The county rate is 10% lower than the State rate of 48.7. The county rate is 4% higher than the Year 2000 National Objective of 42.0 deaths from lung cancer per 100,000 population.

- ❑ **Mammograms:** Forty-eight (48) percent of females ages 30-45 and 77% of females 45-65 have had a mammogram. Of those females having a mammogram, 64% were performed in the past year and 83% were performed within the past two years. As a comparison, 58.7% of Tennessee women over 50 have had a mammogram and clinical breast exam in the past two years (Tennessee BRFS 1995).
- ❑ **Clinical Breast Exam:** Ninety-five (95) percent of females ages 30-45 and 97% of females ages 45-65 have had a clinical breast exam. Of those females having a clinical breast exam, 72% were performed within the past year and 83% were performed within the past two years. For purposes of comparison, 90% of females ages 30-45 and 84% of females ages 45-65 in Cheatham County have had a clinical breast exam.

Houston County's Female Breast Cancer Mortality Rates are #1 in the State of Tennessee. Breast cancer is the second leading cause of deaths among females in the United States. In the publication "Tennessee's Healthy People 2000," Houston County averaged 2 deaths of females from breast cancer between 1993-1995. This amounts to a rate of 53.8 per 100,000 population. The county's rate exceeds the state rate by 139% and the Year 2000 National Objective by 161%. Early detection and intervention can reduce breast cancer mortality by as much as 30 percent.

- ❑ **Pap Smear:** Ninety-three (93) percent of all female respondents report having a pap smear. Of that number, 70% of the test were performed within the past year, and 81% were performed within the past three years. As a comparison, 84.1% of Tennessee women had a pap smear within the past three years (Tennessee BRFS).
- ❑ **Health Care Coverage:** Eighty-eight (88) percent of respondents report they have health care coverage of some kind. However, 35% feel their coverage limits the care they receive and 16% report they needed to see a doctor but could not because of the cost. According to the 1995 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Data, 11.3% of all Tennessee residents are estimated to have no health care plan and 12.3% were unable to see a doctor due to cost. Seventy-six (76) percent of respondents had a checkup within the past year, and 83% had a checkup within the past two years. Sixty-one (61) percent of respondents indicated their quality of health as "good" or better while thirty-six (36) percent report their quality of health as "fair or poor." As a comparison, 17.7% of residents statewide rated their general health status as fair to poor (1995 Tennessee BRFS).